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Helpful Hints For Searching the *Economic Indicators* Online via *GPO Access*

Content and file format:

The *Economic Indicators* database contains the *Economic Indicators* from April 1995 forward. The *Economic Indicators* are prepared for the Joint Economic Committee by the Council of Economic Advisors and is published monthly. Documents are available as ASCII text and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files.¹ Charts and graphs are omitted from the ASCII text version. The database is updated monthly. Results list contains items relevant to search terms as well as entire issues of Economic Indicators which can then be downloaded.

Identification Code:

Each document in the *Economic Indicators* database will be displayed in the results list with an identification code followed by the initial words of the title. For example, Econ. Ind. (April p. 2) PRODUCER PRICES. In this example, Econ. Ind. stands for the source and (April p.2), represents the issue and page number.

Maximum Responses:

The default settings for SWAIS and for the WinWAIS/MacWAIS client software is to return a maximum of 40 responses to a query. To locate a larger number of documents (maximum is 350), you will need to change the setting. In SWAIS type a lower case o at the SOURCE SELECTION menu to change your options. In WinWAIS, select *Edit* and then *Preferences* from the pull-down menu. In MacWAIS, select *File* and then *Preferences* from the pull-down menu.

Sample Searches: ²

Subject

Query: "international statistics"

Alternative: international ADJ statistics

Results: Econ. Ind.(November, 97 p. 35) International Statistics

Econ. Ind.(April, 97 p. 35) International Statistics

This search retrieves tables under the topic of International Statistics. If you are not sure of the exact table title, you can search by subject. All phrases should be placed in quotes, or the boolean operator ADJ (adjacent) should be placed in between all words in a phrase. This search illustrates both searching options.

Table Title

Query: "gross domestic product" OR GDP **Alternative:** gross ADJ domestic ADJ product

Result: Econ. Ind.(October 97 p. 2) REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN

Econ. Ind.(June, 97 p.2) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1987

This search retrieves tables with titles specifically containing the words "Gross Domestic Product". When looking at the ASCII text version of a table, set the font to a non-proportional font, such as courier so that the columns will align properly. You can change your font while in the text editor of the GPO Access client software.

Contents

Query: contents

Results: Econ. Ind.(April 97 p. 38) Contents

Econ. Ind.(December, 97, p. 38) Contents

This search retrieves the table of contents for every issue of *Economic Indicators* in the database for the year. You cannot search by month for one specific table of contents.

Additional GPO Access Materials:

GPO Access User's Guide & Helpful Hints - Available via:

Dial-in: 202-512-1387- From the Main Menu type B for *GPO Access*; type 4 GPO Access WAIS User Documentation & Helpful Hints; select 2 for Helpful Hints. The guide is available in sections or in its entirety & hints are listed by database name. Files are available in ASCII and PDF formats.

FTP: fedbbs.access.gpo.gov or point your browser to http://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov. The file is in the HELP directory. Check 00INDEX.txt for the file descriptions.

Online via *GPO Access*: The User's Guide is available as a database online via *GPO Access* and can be accessed through the Web, WAIS and SWAIS. Documents are available in ASCII and PDF formats. The Helpful Hints are available online by searching for the word hints in each database.

The Superintendent of Document's World Wide Web Home Page: The User's Guide and Helpful Hints are available at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/desc004.html.

GPO Access Training Booklet

Electronic copies of the training booklet are available on the Federal Bulletin Board via:

Dial-in: 202-512-1387- From the Main Menu select B for *GPO Access*; select # 4 *GPO Access* WAIS User Documentation and Helpful Hints; select 1 for User Documentation. The self-executing file names are traintxt.exe for the text version and trainpdf.exe for the Adobe Acrobat PDF version (traintxt.sea or trainpdf.sea for Macintosh).

Web/FTP: fedbbs.access.gpo.gov or point your browser to http://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov The file is in the HELP directory. Check 00INDEX.txt for file descriptions.

ENDNOTES

- {1} Users with SWAIS access will not be able to retrieve the PDF files. Users with WAIS access and the free Acrobat Reader software can view and print the typeset documents.
- {2} The results of these sample searches are described as they will appear using SWAIS or the WinWAIS and MacWAIS client software customized for use with GPO Access. The searches can be performed with other WAIS client software, but the display of the results may vary.